

STATINTL

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SHAW ON POWERS' RELEASE

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HAVANA PRENSA LATINA IN SPANISH TO LATIN AMERICA 1510 16 FEB 62 T

(FREDERICO SHAW COMMENTARY)

(TEXT) WASHINGTON--FRANCIS POWERS, THE NORTH AMERICAN SPY PILOT WHO WAS GENEROUSLY PARDONED BY THE SOVIET UNION, IS UNDERGOING SOME BITTER EXPERIENCES IN THE UNITED STATES. ALL SIGNS INDICATE THAT HE IS BEING SUBJECTED TO THIRD DEGREE INTERROGATION BY THE CHIEFS OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY AND BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.

MEANWHILE, THE NATION'S MOST IMPORTANT NEWSPAPERS, WHICH HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO FORGET THE SENSATIONAL CONFESSIONS BY POWERS, ARE GIVING HIM A REAL GOING OVER. THERE IS SOMETHING WHICH PAINS AND CONCERNS THESE NEWSPAPERS IN PARTICULAR--THE ADMISSION BY THE PILOT THAT HE WAS DOWNED BY SOVIET ROCKETS WHILE FLYING AT 68,000 FEET. IT IS BEYOND QUESTION THAT THIS DISCLOSURE HAS BEEN VERY USEFUL WITH RESPECT TO THE PENTAGON GENERALS. IT HAS SOMEWHAT REDUCED THEIR BELLICOSE DRIVE.

AS MONOPOLY SPOKESMAN, THESE NEWSPAPERS PLACE CONSIDERABLE EMPHASIS ON DESCRIBING POWERS AS A COWARD, A MERCENARY, OR BY OTHER SUCH UNPLATTERING TERMS. THE NEW YORK POST SAID YESTERDAY: "HE DID NOT TURN OUT TO BE SUCH A GREAT EXAMPLE OF AMERICAN MANHOOD."

IN ANY CASE MR. POWERS SHOULD NOT BE (CONDEMNED), ACCORDING TO OBJECTIVE OBSERVERS, BECAUSE HE WAS AFTER ALL DOWNED WHILE CARRYING OUT VERY DIRTY BUSINESS UNDER ORDERS AND IN THE PAY OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

APART FROM POWERS' NATURAL DESIRE TO ^{LIVE?} LOVE, ABOUT WHICH SOVIET PREMIER NIKITA KHRUSHCHEV ALLUDED IN REFERRING TO POWERS, HIS DECISION NOT TO COMMIT SUICIDE WAS JUSTIFIED FOR MANY OTHER REASONS. PRESUMABLY THE THOUGHT MUST HAVE STRUCK THE YANKEE SPY PILOT AS HE WAS HIT BY SOVIET ROCKETS THAT HE WAS AFTER ALL NOTHING MORE THAN AN INSTRUMENT OF THE GENTLEMEN IN WASHINGTON WHO ARE DETERMINED TO PUSH THE WORLD INTO A DEVASTATING THERMONUCLEAR WAR. FROM THIS VIEWPOINT, POWERS' GUILT IS NOT REDUCED BUT MUST BE SHARED IN A GREATER DEGREE BY THE CHIEFS OF THE PENTAGON, THE CIA, THE WHITE HOUSE, AND WALL STREET.

POWERS MAY WELL HAVE ASKED HIMSELF IF IT WAS WORTH TAKING HIS OWN LIFE, THE MORE FAITHFULLY TO SERVE THE MONOPOLISTS AND IMPERIALISTS OF HIS COUNTRY, THE GREAT MAGNATES OF INDUSTRY, OF FINANCE, AND OF BUSINESS WHO HAVE PROFITED AND STILL PROFIT FROM WAR PREPARATIONS AND WAR ITSELF. HE MAY HAVE COME TO THE REASONABLE CONCLUSION THAT HIS PERSONAL SACRIFICE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN FAIR. HAD POWERS FIRED A BULLET INTO HIS HEAD--TO ENABLE NELSON ROCKEFELLER TO POCKET MORE MILLIONS FROM HIS OIL INTERESTS--HE WOULD HAVE BEEN A "NATIONAL HERO" TODAY FOR THE MONOPOLY PRESS, BUT HE ALSO WOULD HAVE BEEN SIX FEET UNDER AND WORM-EATEN.